



NEWARK TEACHERS UNION RETIREE CHAPTER

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Regionally Chartered 1991

May 20, 2008

Dear Retirees,

A six day fall trip is being planned by our bus driver and tour director, Richard Sweeten to the Biltmore Estate, Asheville, North Carolina, Monticello, Va and other places of interest along the way. In order to do justice to Asheville this trip will consist of six days instead of our usual five. The first day will be strictly on the road and we will spend the night in Roanoke, VA. The second day we will arrive in Asheville and spend the entire day at the Biltmore including lunch, dinner and the night. We want to do justice to the Biltmore and its environs so we need the entire day to do this.

Day #2 includes one of the highlights of the trip -- the Vanderbilt Estate in Asheville. This 250 room mansion was built as a country retreat for George and Edith Vanderbilt. It includes art by the masters, tapestries, a library with 10,000 volumes, a banquet hall with 70 foot ceilings, 65 fireplaces, an indoor pool, bowling alley and priceless antiques.. The formal and informal gardens were designed by Frederick Law Olmstead. From the formal Italian garden to America's first managed forests, Biltmore's lush landscape is a living tribute to Olmstead's genius. The Estate includes a collection of shops, a winery, beautiful grounds, wonderful gift and craft shops many other places of interest

Day #3 includes a trip to the North Carolina Arboretum which has 426 acres of native plants. After the gardens we will visit the Folk Art Center home of the Southern Highland Craft Guild. This is a very popular attraction on the Blue Ridge Parkway. From March through December visitors can observe craftspeople at work in daily craft demonstrations. The center includes the finest in traditional and contemporary crafts of the Southern Appalachians. Chimney Rock Park is next on the agenda. Chimney Rock is a privately owned Heritage Site that includes 1000 acres including rock formations and a 360 degree view of the Blue Ridge Mountains. This visit will be followed by an excursion aboard Lake Lure. We will spend the night at the 1927 Lake Lore Inn and Spa. The Inn is home to a unique collection of art and antiques

Day #4 will include a visit to the Thomas Wolfe Museum, the childhood home of the author. Wolfe immortalized his home in his epic biography *Look Homeward Angel* with his colorful portrayal of his family and his hometown of Asheville. This will be followed by a bus tour of Asheville. We will also have time to shop at the Grove Arcade, the lavishly ornamented Gothic structure which dominates an entire city block. The Arcade opened in 1929 and thrived until WWII. It was recently renovated and reopened in 2002. We will have dinner and spend the night at Peaks of Otter on the Skyline Drive where the food is good and the view spectacular

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Day #5 we shall travel to Charlottesville, VA to the home of Thomas Jefferson, another of our trip's highlights. This is the home that took Jefferson 40 years to design and he lived in it for 56 years. The home is very interesting and a showplace for many of Jefferson's inventions including the dumbwaiter. We will also visit Ash Lawn the plantation home of President James Monroe. Monroe and his wife owned Ash Lawn and made it their official residence from 1793-1826. In 1974 Ash Lawn was bequeathed to the College of William and Mary the alma mater of James Monroe.

Day #6 we will head for home, a nine hour trip with possible stops along the way.

The price of the six day, five nights Biltmore trip is as follows:

Double occupancy: \$980 per person for members

Single occupancy: \$1440

Right now we are asking for a \$25.00 deposit per person to see if you are interested in this trip. If the trip runs and we hope that it does, we shall arrange for a payment schedule as we do with all of our multi day trips. If you are interested please return the bottom tear off with your deposit.

Thank you,

Rita and Diane

Six Day Trip to Biltmore Estate, Asheville NC and Monticello, VA

Name _____

Deposit included _____

Name of Guest _____

Deposit included _____

Yes No I need a roommate Circle one

Please return to Newark Teachers Union 1019 Broad Street Newark, NJ 07102

Please return by June 10, 2008